

Re: Testimony for House Bill 5002, "An Act Concerning the Development of a Green New Deal"
ETtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Dear Committee Members,

It's critical Connecticut invest immediately in reducing GHG emissions. Failure to do so will be very dangerous and long term extremely expensive for a coastal state.

Below are suggestions of what should be included.

Thank you.

Chris Schweitzer

Director

New Haven Leon SCP

What Should Be in a CT Green New Deal

Goals of CT GND:

- **Clear plan for rapid transition to next zero by 2030 or sooner.**
- Recognize climate crisis as urgent existential threat to Connecticut's future well being.
- Develop plan to respond to climate emergency designed to meet the scale of the problem.
- State to play leadership role in moving public, region, nation to create appropriate response.
- Begin to structure economy in way that recognizes ecosystem limits (Planetary Boundaries).
- Create significant community benefits including improved public health, jobs, better access to transportation options, and more attractive communities.

Criteria for 2019 CT GND Policies

Reduce greenhouse gases.

Have good track record in CT or elsewhere, or already exist and need expansion.

Produce co-benefits like job creation and public health improvements.

Address climate justice, equity.

Possibly support local efforts that municipalities can partner/lead on.

Short term CT GND Possible Projects (to 2021)

1. Fund regional planning for 2020 grants for projects.
2. Increase funding for DEEP and other appropriate state agencies to support statewide and local ghg reduction efforts.
3. Support programs that reduce GHG emissions and reduce government costs, like Pay as You Throw to free up funds.
Expand existing successful programs like Energize CT, Green Bank to reduce building energy use.

Fund local alternative transportation projects, and accelerate pace of project implementation, i.e.,
cycle tracks, bus shelters, transportation alternatives communication campaigns (CTrides), etc.

4. Support expansion of electric vehicle purchase by state and citizens.
5. Pass legislation freeing municipalities to implement GHG reduction projects, like energy efficiency ordinances, or create statewide legislation.
6. Prioritize projects that create CT jobs and have public health and other co-benefits.
7. State support advocacy for national Green New Deal.
8. State provide small grants for NGOs to lead GHG reduction projects. Invite private foundations and corporate giving to do likewise.
9. State grants for GHG reduction projects identified in Sustainable CT plan.
10. Pass legislation allowing community choice aggregation for clean energy purchase.
11. Across the board, decrease barriers limiting growth of successful efforts like solar installation, energy efficiency, transportation alternatives support.
12. Do analysis and community consultation on which projects to prioritize for job creation, public health and other co-benefits.

Transportation ideas

13. Funding to fully develop/complete CT Action Transportation Plan, including consultation with regional/local groups to develop regional plans. Would fund construction projects identified in later years.
14. Funding Safe Routes to Schools and bike/ped education programs in communities across the state.
15. Fund Complete Streets construction projects to make streets safer and more bike ped friendly.
16. State funds for bike-ped coordinator
17. Allow cities to reduce speeds
18. Encourage State employees to use alt transportation (might be part of the first or third point as well).

Long term possible projects

1. Significantly decrease overall energy use aiming for carbon neutral ASAP or 2030.
2. Plan should respect wide range of planetary and local environmental boundaries. Include “polluter pays” policies.
3. Expand public education on climate change, ecological boundaries, and support creation of ecological culture.
4. Create local clean sources of energy; replace importation of fossil fuels with CT based energy industry; explore state/local ownership of energy production.
5. Support just transition to clean energy economy giving priority to vulnerable communities.
6. Support community resiliency projects to limit impacts of climate change.
7. Recognizing Connecticut’s climate debt., adopt international sister climate justice communities (Puerto Rico, Ecuador, Haiti, etc) and coordinate projects that help them reduce GHG emissions and build resiliency.

Dear Senator Needleman, Representative Arconti, and members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

I support every effort whose intent is to mitigate the effects of climate change. Climate change is the greatest challenge facing humanity and if we don't act the world will be one full of people fighting for survival and mass extinctions in the animal kingdom. I would like to see the desire for action on climate change that I share with so many aimed at the most effective course of action. When I look around the country at what is being done and seems to be working to achieve these goals of energy efficiency, deployment of renewable, sustainability and resilience of the electric grid, the mechanism that seems most effective is Community Choice Aggregation. CCA is when a community/ municipal agency becomes the default electrical procurer for its residents. CCA removes the profit motive for increasing electrical consumption and can make it its mission to reduce demand through energy efficiency efforts. It also has been very successful in reducing and stabilizing electrical generation prices. CCAs can develop their own local renewables instead of purchasing renewable energy credits which has been UI and Eversource's way of meeting the Region Greenhouse Gas Initiative renewable standards. When a CCA develops its own renewables, pricing is stabilized because renewables are not dependent on continually buying fossil fuels but instead are a one-time investment which supplies electricity for 20-30 years. It is actually purchasing the power rather than the renewable energy credit model of renting it. Renewable energy credit may reward green energy producer in another state but the actual electricity we use will still be made by burning fossil fuels here as long as REC are employed. CT's transmission lines are operating at capacity and therefore inefficiently. CT has a choice of either making huge investments in transmission capability or investing in reducing demand and developing local renewables thereby eliminating the need for addition transmission capacity. Energy efficiency efforts are the most effective method to save on energy costs and yet they are often marginalized and the first programs that are cut during budget struggles. MA and CA allow the CCAs to administer the energy efficiency funds of their customers. CCAs can address the shortcomings of the solar efforts which so far have only benefited a small minority of the market i.e. those with resources, site control and interest in participating. The majority, who are renters, have no credit, or don't pay their bills on time have been excluded from solar programs. So far the systems of tax credits, net metering, and state incentives have excluded the poor and unemployed from participation. CCA opens up the Shared Solar concept to a universal offering. Smart design that matches areas of large demand with distributed energy resources are an optimal CCA practice. CCAs administering energy efficiency programs can integrate them with the onsite renewables, forming a broad spectrum of power, heating and hot water systems to maximize efficiency. CCA presents an opportunity to reopen the retail energy market to efficient technologies using Solar Bonds. The development of local energy sources can create thousands of CT jobs. By working with its members CCAs can especially target reducing peak demand thereby flattening the power demand curve and reducing overall energy cost. UI and Eversource will insist that they need to make large expensive transmission upgrades because that is their business. I believe CCA is

the best vehicle for addressing CT's energy needs and best option to ensure that the laudable goals set out in bill HB 5004 are achieved.

Sincerely,

Daniel Knudsen

Cheshire, CT

PAN34 environment monitor

New Haven energy task force member